

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 082907
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SNM-05 SIG-03
DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00
TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 AID-05 /088 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:MHORNBLOW:DE
APPROVED BY S/NM:JLINNEMANN
NEA:ADUBS
EUR/SOV:HENDERSON
S/NM:WOODRING

-----062674 312340Z /64

R 310252Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY KABUL
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USLO PEKING KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082907

E.O. 11652: XGDS(1)

TAGS: SNAR, AF, USSR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET CHARGE'S MEETING WITH FALCO (S/NM) AND DUBS
(NEA) ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS PROBLEM

SUMMARY: ON MARCH 28 SOVIET CHARGE VASEV HAD 45-MINUTE
MEETING WITH FALCO (S/NM) AND DUBS (NEA) TO DISCUSS NAR-
COTICS PROBLEM. FALCO DESCRIBED US PERCEPTIONS OF NAR-
COTICS SITUATION EMPHASIZING THAT PROBLEM NOW A WORLDWIDE
CONCERN. SHE SAID PAK-AFGHAN BORDER AREA EMERGING AS A
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 082907

MAJOR SOURCE OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND DESCRIBED FUNCTIONS OF
JOINT COMMISSION ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS AND HOW NARCOTICS
CLAUSES ARE INCLUDED IN SIDE LETTERS TO US-AFGHAN AID PRO-
JECT AGREEMENTS. BOTH FALCO AND DUBS MENTIONED THAT OPIUM
POPPIES HAD BEEN OBSERVED GROWING IN AND NEAR SOVIET AID
PROJECTS IN AFGHANISTAN. THEY ASKED IF SOVIETS WOULD BE
WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH US IN REDUCING POPPY CULTIVATION
IN AFGHANISTAN.

IN RESPONSE VASEV SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF SOVIETS WOULD BE

WILLING TO COOPERATE AND SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT OPIUM POPPIES GROWING ON SOVIET AID PROJECTS IN AFGHANISTAN. VASEV CHARGED THAT US APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM WAS "POLITICAL" AND "NOT SERIOUS" SINCE WE HAD "EXCLUDED" CHINA WHICH HE CLAIMED WAS LARGEST HEROIN PRODUCER IN

WORLD. VASEV ALSO ASSERTED THAT US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW DAMAGING US-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE OF EMBASSY'S EFFORTS "TO PROTECT" THREE AMERICAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN USSR. HENDERSON (EUR/SOV) STRONGLY DENIED CHARGE AND SAID US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAD NEVER ONCE COMPLAINED ABOUT SOVIET JUDICIAL PROCESS IN THIS CASE BUT HAD ONLY MADE NORMAL INQUIRIES.

AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING VASEV SAID "IF WE CAN'T AGREE ON THIS WE CAN'T AGREE ON ANYTHING". AT END OF MEETING "NON PAPERS" WERE EXCHANGED.

(COMMENT) MEETING WAS STRAINED AND MORE OF A DEBATE THAN A DISCUSSION.

1. SOVIET CHARGE, VLADILLEN VASEV
CALLED ON MATHEA FALCO, THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF IN-
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 082907

TERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL (S/NM) ON MARCH 28. MEETING LASTED 45 MINUTES. VASEV WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FIRST SECRETARY YEVGENIY IVANOV. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS (NEA), HENDERSON (EUR/SOV), HORNBLow (NEA/PAB) AND WOODRING (S/NM) ALSO PARTICIPATED IN MEETING.

2. FALCO WELCOMED VASEV AND DESCRIBED SOME OF THE CONCERNS OF HER OFFICE. SHE EMPHASIZED THAT NARCOTICS PROBLEM NOW A WORLDWIDE CONCERN WHICH AFFECTS A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN DIFFERENT WAYS. VASEV INTERRUPTED FALCO SAYING THAT HE HAD READ TRANSCRIPT OF FALCO'S RECENT CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY AND HAD NOTED SHE HAD NEVER MENTIONED CHINA. IN RESPONSE, FALCO SAID SHE HAD NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF CHINESE NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND NOTED THAT CHINESE CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CONTROLLING NARCOTICS CULTIVATION.

3. FALCO THEN DESCRIBED NARCOTICS SITUATION IN MEXICO AND GOLDEN TRIANGLE. SHE SAID THIRD MAJOR NARCOTICS PRODUCING AREA WAS AFGHAN-PAK BORDER REGION. PREVIOUSLY MOST OF THE AFGHAN-PAK PRODUCTION HAD BEEN CONSUMED WITHIN THE REGION, HOWEVER IN RECENT YEARS PRODUCTION HAD INCREASED AND SOME HAD SPILLED OVER INTO WESTERN EUROPE. SOME OF THE HEROIN AND OPIUM RECENTLY SEIZED IN WESTERN EUROPE HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS ORIGINATING IN PAKISTAN/AFGHANISTAN. FALCO SAID THIS INCREASE IN AFGHAN-PAK PRODUCTION WAS OF CONCERN TO US. SHE THEN DESCRIBED FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT COMMIS-

SION ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS AND MENTIONED THE ANTI-NARCOTICS CLAUSES WHICH ARE INCLUDED AS SIDE-LETTERS TO USAID PROJECT AGREEMENTS. IN CONCLUDING PRESENTATION FALCO NOTED THAT AT GENEVA MEETING THERE HAD BEEN A CONSENSUS THAT NARCOTICS IS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM, TOO BIG FOR ANY

ONE COUNTRY TO SOLVE.

4. VASEV AGREED THAT NARCOTICS IS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 082907

PROBLEM BUT IS PRIMARILY A SOCIAL PROBLEM. FALCO SAID SHE RECOGNIZED THAT "DEMAND" IS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE PROBLEM. VASEV ASSERTED THAT EVERYBODY WANTS TO SELL THINGS TO THE AMERICANS. FALCO RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE MANY OTHER MARKETS FOR NARCOTICS IN THE WORLD.

5. VASEV ADMITTED SOVIET UNION HAD NOT MANAGED TO ESCAPE NARCOTICS PROBLEM ALTOGETHER. DUBS RECALLED THAT DURING HIS LAST TOUR IN MOSCOW HE REMEMBERED THAT A PROVINCIAL PARTY OFFICIAL HAD OPENLY RECOGNIZED PROBLEM BUT NOT MUCH PUBLICITY IS GIVEN TO NARCOTICS ABUSE IN THE SOVIET PRESS. DUBS ADDED THAT NARCOTICS ABUSE IS A SOCIAL PROBLEM WHICH PERVADES MANY SOCIETIES AND IS DESTRUCTIVE OF LIFE. VASEV AGREED AND, GOING "OFF THE RECORD", SAID PROBLEMS IN TADZHIKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN ARE SIMILAR. THE TWO AREAS ARE CULTURALLY CLOSE. VASEV SAID IN TADZHIKISTAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES DO NOT PUNISH HASH CONSUMERS BECAUSE IT IS A WAY OF LIFE.

6. FALCO MENTIONED ONCE AGAIN THAT THE US IS CONCERNED BY LARGE COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES. IN PAST US HAS LED WAY IN ATTACKING PROBLEM BUT IT IS NOW CLEARLY A MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEM IN MANY COUNTRIES. VASEV IN RESPONSE SAID "SINCE YOU HAVEN'T MENTIONED CHINA YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY APPROACH PROBLEM."

7. DUBS ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE USSR TO JOIN A COMMON EFFORT TO RESTRICT POPPY CULTIVATION IN AFGHANISTAN. VASEV RESPONDED THAT USSR HAS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN AND WAS NOT WORRIED ABOUT DRUG TRAFFICKING IN RELATION TO AFGHANISTAN. DUBS NOTED THAT SOVIETS ALSO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN AND OPIUM POPPIES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED GROWING
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 082907

IN AND NEAR SOVIET AID PROJECTS IN NANGARHAR PROVINCE. VASEV SAID HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF WHAT DUBS HAD SAID BUT ADMITTED HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS ASPECT OF PROBLEM. HE REPEATED THAT NARCOTICS HAVE NOT BEEN A PRO-

BLEM IN SOVIET-AFGHAN RELATIONS.

8. FALCO ASSERTED NARCOTICS WERE NOT A PROBLEM IN US-AFGHAN RELATIONS EITHER BECAUSE THE GOA HAD BEEN COOPERATIVE. HOWEVER, OTHER GOVERNMENTS ARE GREATLY CONCERNED PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY SEE ASSISTANCE PROJECTS AIDING THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES. VASEV SAID HE ASSUMED FALCO HAD BEEN REFERRING TO SOVIET AID PROJECTS AND THAT THIS WAS A "NEW QUESTION".

9. DUBS SAID AS SOURCES OF SUPPLY DRY UP IN MEXICO AND THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS INEVITABLY WILL LOOK TO AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. THIS COULD MEAN THE INTRODUCTION OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BY EXTERNAL ELEMENTS AND CONSTITUTE A DESTABILIZING FACTOR POLITICALLY. DUBS SAID US-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE NOT CONFINED TO MAJOR ISSUES SUCH AS SALT AND MBFR BUT INVOLVED CONTACTS ON A MYRIAD OF LEVELS. THE US AND SOVIET UNION SHOULD LOOK FOR AREAS WHERE COOPERATION CAN BE EXPANDED TO OUR MUTUAL INTEREST AND PERHAPS NARCOTICS IS ONE OF THOSE AREAS. VASEV RESPONDED "I DON'T KNOW".

10. FALCO EXPRESSED HOPE RUSSIANS WOULD CONSIDER THIS CAREFULLY. FALCO SAID NARCOTICS IS A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM WHICH IS NON POLITICAL. VASEV RESPONDED BY SAYING THE US IS TREATING THIS AS A POLITICAL PROBLEM SINCE WE HAVE "EXCLUDED CHINA". VASEV CLAIMED THAT CHINA WAS THE BIGGEST HEROIN PRODUCER IN WORLD. FALCO ANSWERED THAT US HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT PRC IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS CULTIVATION AND TRAFFICKING ALTHOUGH ETHNIC CHINESE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA ARE INVOLVED. FALCO SAID SHE WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE WHATEVER INFORMATION VASEV COULD PROVIDE HER CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 082907

ABOUT CHINESE NARCOTICS CULTIVATION AND TRAFFICKING.

11. VASEV THEN CHARGED THAT THE US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW IS PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF US-SOVIET FRICTION BECAUSE OF EMBASSY'S EFFORTS "TO PROTECT" THREE AMERICAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN SOVIET UNION. VASEV SAID THIS HAD BECOME A PROBLEM IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS BECAUSE US EMBASSY HAD RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS SAYING SOVIETS HAD BEEN "TOO CRUEL" TO THE THREE AMERICANS. HENDERSON (EUR/SOV) DESCRIBED BACKGROUND OF CASE AND SAID FIRMLY THAT US EMBASSY HAD NEVER ONCE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE SOVIET JUDICIAL PROCESS IN THIS CASE AND MADE ONLY NORMAL INQUIRIES AS TO THE PRISONERS' SITUATION IN THE LABOR CAMP. VASEV SAID US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAD NOT COMPLAINED "DIRECTLY" BUT HAD COMPLAINED "INDIRECTLY".

12. IN CONCLUDING MEETING, FALCO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS WAS AN AREA WHERE US AND SOVIETS COULD COOPERATE. SHE

HANDED VASEV A "NON PAPER" (POUCHED TO EMBASSIES MOSCOW AND KABUL) SUMMARIZING POINTS SHE HAD MADE AND ASKED VASEV IF SHE COULD HAVE PAPER WHICH VASEV HAD BEEN HOLDING DURING MEETING. VASEV SAID PAPER CONTAINED INFORMAL TALKING POINTS (ON THE THREE AMERICAN TRAFFICKERS) WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED BY EMBASSY STAFF AND HANDED PAPER TO HER. (POUCHED TO EMBASSY MOSCOW) AS HE LEFT, VASEV SAID "IF WE CAN'T AGREE ON THIS WE CAN'T AGREE ON ANYTHING".

13. (COMMENT) VASEV WAS ABRASIVE AND CYNICAL. MEETING WAS STRAINED AND MORE OF A DEBATE THAN A DIALOGUE THROUGH WHICH THE TWO SIDES MIGHT EXPAND THEIR COMMON EFFORTS IN ALLEVIATING A HUMAN PROBLEM. IN SEVERAL WEEKS, A DEPARTMENT OFFICER PLANS TO MAKE A LOW-KEY FOLLOW UP APPROACH TO IVANOV, WHO HAS BEEN MORE RECEPTIVE IN EARLIER DIS-CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 07 STATE 082907

CUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT. COOPER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG ABUSE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE082907
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/PAB:MHORNBLOW:DE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS(1)
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780141-0188
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803126/baaafcgt.tel
Line Count: 240
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ff6e5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3167462
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET CHARGE'S MEETING WITH FALCO (S/NM) AND DUBS (NEA) ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS PROBLEM
TAGS: SNAR, AF, UR, US, (FALCO, MALTHERA), (VASEV, VLADILLEN)
To: MOSCOW KABUL MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ff6e5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014